



Statement from Governor Mark Dayton

The Minnesota Constitution assigns me the responsibility to fill the upcoming vacancy in the United States Senate. I have given this important decision the most careful consideration. First and foremost, I want to appoint the person, who, I believe, will best represent the people of Minnesota in the Senate.

I have selected our outstanding Lt. Governor, Tina Smith. I have worked with many superb public officials during my forty-year career; Tina stands first and foremost among them. She is extremely intelligent, quick to learn, yet always open to hearing others' views. She genuinely likes people, and people like her. She has impeccable integrity and the highest personal and professional standards. She will be a Senator of whom all Minnesotans can be proud.

Tina knows Minnesota. She has traveled extensively throughout our state; she knows our citizens, our challenges, and our opportunities. We have worked closely together during the past seven years, and she deserves great credit for our administration's achievements, which have led to our just being named the best-run state in America.

Before making my decision, I listened to many Minnesotans, who shared their views with me. But this final decision is mine alone. Again, it is based entirely upon my conviction that Tina Smith will be the best possible Senator for the people of Minnesota.

It is now my honor to introduce Minnesota's next United States Senator, Tina Smith.